

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

Tsunetaro Miyakoda

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

Editors:

Chuzo Yamada

Dorothy Burt

Umeko Kagawa

CABLE CODE: JAPACONGIL, ADDRESS: CIRISTIAN CENTER, 2,4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥ 700, Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00, (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 235

September 1, 1963

The Japan Christian Year Book	1
Seventeenth Annual Japan Baptist Convention	2
Ambitious Plan for Extending YMCA	2
Results of the "L-TYPE" Evangelism Team in Hokkaido	3
Modern Good Samaritans in the Midnight Mission	4

THE JAPAN CHRISTIAN YEAR BOOK

Among the most important publications of the year in Japan is the 1963 Japan Christian Year Book, volume 52. Published in September by the Kyobunkwan (Christian Literature Society of Japan), the 450-page volume is probably the most comprehensive report in English of all Christian work in Japan. Most of the articles were written by a Japanese leader or specialist, and the variety of fields included make it a landmark in Christian reporting.

The first division, General, sketches current Japanese life - politics, economy, society, intellectual movements and indigenous religion. The second, Christian Movement, presents such important areas of Christian work as religious education and youth. The work of twenty major churches and denominations - including important statistics, conferences or decisions, and leaders - is presented in the third part. Bird's-eye views of fifteen major associations or societies, such as the National Christian Council, Japan Bible Society, YMCA and YWCA, Japan Christian Medical Association, Japan Bible Christian Council, and Japan Church World Service, make up the fourth part. The final section is a comprehensive group of directories of all denominational headquarters, Japanese Protestant leaders, mission boards and societies, missionaries currently at work in Japan and overall statistics.

The year book is edited by the Reverend Chuzo Yamada, General Secretary, NCC, and the Reverend Robert Northup, Fraternal Worker. Orders from overseas will be welcomed at

the Kyobunkwan, 2 Ginza, 4 Chome, Chuo Ku, Tokyo, The price is \$ 2.00 or 16s (postpaid), bank charge for a check is \$.30 or 2s.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Japan Baptist Convention, Baputesto Renmei (Southern Baptist-affiliated), was held from August 20 through 23 at Amagi Sanso, Izu, with 250 delegates and about 30 observers present. Officers elected to take office as of January 1, 1964, are as follows:

Chairman: Masayoshi Soeda, Pastor of Oizumi Baptist Church
 Vice-chairman: Shigetaka Sakamoto, Professor of Seinan Gakuin University
 Chairman of Church Education Department: Masana Suzuki, Pastor of Tokyo First Baptist Church
 Chairman of the Department of Lay Activities: Reiji Hoshizaki, Missionary Pastor in Nagoya

Statistics as of June 30, 1963, show that there are 93 churches, 147 ministers and 15, 543 members. Many matters were discussed and decisions made; among the latter a decision to send a missionary to Brazil. His name is Rev. Nobuyoshi Togami.

A suggestion to hold the World Baptist Convention in 1970 in Japan was left pending, awaiting agreement by the Northern Baptist Federation.

AMBITIOUS PLAN FOR EXTENDING YMCA

The YMCA, with 84 years of experience in giving guidance and education to young people, is planning to establish 11 youth centers in ten cities of Japan. Expecting to raise ¥645,000,000 (approximately \$2,000,000), this amount is to be raised from June 1, 1963 to May 31, 1964.

The plan, a most ambitious one, happily coincides with a program of character building advocated by the Japanese Government. It is designed to continue to produce in greater number more effective leaders, decrease the number of juvenile delinquents and give increased opportunities for spiritual, mental and physical development of members.

The eleven centers will be located in the following cities: Tokyo (2), Yokohama, Gotemba, Toyama, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Himeji, Hiroshima and Kumamoto.

RESULTS OF THE "L-TYPE" EVANGELISM TEAM IN HOKKAIDO

The summer evangelism team arrived in Japan early in

INVESTIGATION: JAPANESE CHRISTIANITY

The recent (seventh annual) meeting of the Japan Christian Council, Japanese Council (JCC) was held from August 20 through 25 at the Hotel New Otowa, Tokyo. Delegates and about 70 observers, mostly from the United States, were in attendance. The following is a list of the delegates and observers:

Chairman: Masayoshi Kato, Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Tokyo

Vice-Chairman: Shigeo Matsuo, President of the JCC

Secretary: Masao Yamada, Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Tokyo
Chairman of the Japanese Council: Masao Yamada, Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Tokyo

Chairman of the Japanese Council: Masao Yamada, Pastor of St. Paul's Church, Tokyo

At the meeting of June 30, 1963, about 100 delegates and 70 churches, 145 ministers and 15,000 members. Many churches were disrupted, and some churches were closed. The meeting was held in a hall in Tokyo. The hall was very large.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024

MISSIONS AND THE JAPANESE CHURCH

The JCC, with 88 years of experience in Christian missions and education to young people, is planning to launch a youth center in the city of Tokyo. The center is to be located in the city of Tokyo. The center is to be located in the city of Tokyo. The center is to be located in the city of Tokyo.

The plan, a most ambitious one, is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people. The plan is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people. The plan is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people. The plan is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people.

The plan is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people. The plan is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people. The plan is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people. The plan is to establish a program of Christian missions and education to young people.

REPORT OF THE JCC TO THE JCC

The JCC has been very active in its work. The JCC has been very active in its work. The JCC has been very active in its work. The JCC has been very active in its work.

July for their work in Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island. Referred to as L-Type evangelism after Dr. Lacour who began this plan on a National Christian Council level some five years ago, it has been taken over by the Kyodan the last three years. It has also been called bulldozer evangelism as it ploughs through stony ground.

The team consisted of 14 ministers and seven wives; one of these ministers was the director. They were assigned to 15 evangelistic centers throughout Hokkaido where for a period of 50 days they lived on a Japanese scale and were accommodated in the homes of pastors, lay people of the churches and Japanese inns. With a purpose of nurturing and re-activating local churches and making pastoral calls, these efforts resulted in 22 baptisms, and 121 under preparation for baptism; 897 seekers came forward asking for more information on the Christian faith. Many of the churches were located in depressed mining areas where the mines had been closed, causing economic and spiritual distress among the people affected. In spite of all sorts of conditions and situations, church attendance was doubled in all churches involved in the plan.

"Humility, kindness and generosity of the team members and their leadership brought about fruitful results," said Rev. Atsushi Chiba, chairman of the Department of Evangelism of the United Church of Christ in Japan. Another minister reported more evangelistic effort during the summer than had been tried in ten years.

The work of these overseas ministers and their wives was most effective in the area where the foundation had been carefully laid in prayer, publicity and careful planning. HOREMCO (Hokkaido Radio and Mass Communication Evangelism) shouldered much of the responsibility for the advance publicity.

Most of the visitors, who lived on a Japanese scale in the homes of pastors and lay Christians as well as country inns, reported that their interpreters were excellent in linguistic ability and in the sensitivity with which they put the material into another language. Many of them said this was one of the richest experiences of their lives in the ministry. Even in areas where no visible results were evident, team members agreed that they were taking back with them to their own countries something of great value that they could have obtained in no other way. Their suggestions for the work of the United Church of Christ in Japan will show up in the months ahead. This stirring up of the waters of complacency and the sharing of ideas from both cultures were of great benefit to all concerned. Opportunities for more active participation of lay church members was stressed. Most of the ministers agreed that it was a privilege to have spent the summer working with the Japanese churches, and were vehement in their praise of the courtesies extended to them. The majority stated that they would make a return visit to Japan if opportunity were given to them.

MODERN GOOD SAMARITANS IN THE MIDNIGHT MISSION

Among many dedicated Christian social workers are the Good Samaritans of the Midnight Mission in Tokyo. It was founded to rehabilitate women in the chaotic social conditions of 1953 as witnessed by Dr. Gerhardt Moeller. Visiting Japan at the time, he was a director of a rehabilitation program for street girls in Germany. He saw girls in similar situations on the streets of Japan.

After his return to Germany, two women missionaries were sent from that country to Japan. Through the Church in Japan, three missionaries, with Japanese co-workers, began a life of going into areas where crowded bars and cabarets abound. This is the training ground for the street girls.

They handed out leaflets and spoke with the girls personally. They consulted managers, asking to be allowed to talk with the girls about their lives in this area. These girls have had no experience of ever being really loved or wanted. A Christmas party was held for the first time last year with 28 girls attending. This was very well received.

One team member reported that girls stand in doorways waiting not only for customers but also for someone to save them from a life of loneliness and desperation. One girl confessed that she had come to love Jesus Christ, wanted to know more about Him, and begged the staff to stay with her and guide her until she could stand alone. The staff of four has gotten through to a number of these girls, guiding them to the point where they can lead decent lives. Through this means several have changed their ways of livelihood for the better. The police realize the constructive force of this mission in the community. They often refer girls, whom they feel can be rehabilitated, to the home.

The project has become a part of Interchurch Aid as registered in Geneva, which has helped with the building of a home. In 1961 a structure was begun in the little fishing village of Futtsu in Chiba Prefecture. Two youth work camps helped with the preparation of the ground. Others helped with transportation, furnishings, giving concerts to raise money; the architect was most cooperative in changes that had to be made. Nozomi No Mon Gakuen (Gate of Hope School) now has resident facilities for 20 girls. A matron and four Japanese co-workers are paid by the Government. Although at times there are only seven or eight women and girls in residence, the authorities feel that to carry on a complete program, a staff of six people is needed.

